



2023-2024 MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

Boys and Girls Hockey Rules, Polices and Bylaws

General Information

See the [MSHSL Handbook Page](http://www.mshsl.org/governance) (www.mshsl.org/governance) for information regarding the following:

- Multiple Level Teams at Sub-Varsity Level
- Official Squad Size
- Substitution in MSHSL Tournaments
- Weather Conditions (heat, cold, lightning & air quality)

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 501](#) for information regarding:

- Maximum Number of Contests

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 502](#) for information regarding:

- Daily and Season Player Participation Limitations

CONTEST RULES

Refer to [Bylaw 402](#): Except as modified by the League, the National Federation of High School Association rules for the current year shall be the official game rules for all interscholastic contests in which League members participate.

Schools playing in Holiday tournaments, exclusive of MSHSL sponsored tournaments, may play 20-minute periods.

END OF SEASON

Refer to [Bylaw 411](#)

A. Student Participation on a Non-School Team While the Season is Still in Progress:

1. The season shall end when the student or student's team has been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series.
2. Students who have been eliminated from further participation in a League tournament series may participate as an individual or as a member of a non-school team in that sport.

B. School Team Practice and Competition:

The "end of season" shall be defined to be the last date of the state tournament in that sport.

1. Schools may continue to conduct practice and training for all squad members, including the students who have been eliminated from further individual competition in a League-sponsored series until completion of the state tournament conducted by the League in that activity.
2. Dual contests may be scheduled after the start of the official League tournament series providing the school does not exceed the maximum number of games/matches/meets permitted in that activity.

C. No school may engage in any meet or meets, practice, training or other activities between the end of the season and the opening of the next season.

- D. During the Summer Vacation Period (Bylaw 208.3 Non-School Competition and Training—Team and Individual Sports) members of a high school team may participate on a non-school team and they may receive coaching or training from a salaried or non-salaried member of the student’s sophomore, B-squad, junior varsity or varsity high school coaching staff in that sport provided the school has approved a summer coaching waiver for the coach or coaches of that sport.

VIDEO TAPING ANOTHER SCHOOL'S GAME

It shall be an ethical violation to tape another school's game, meet or contest without their permission. Further it may be a violation of the laws governing copyrights. Each school owns the copyrights to their games, meets and contests. Taping another school’s game without permission could constitute a violation of the copyright law.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR SPECTATOR CONDUCT

In order to elevate standards of sportsmanship and encourage the growth of responsible citizenship among the students, member schools, fans and school personnel, the MSHSL held a Sportsmanship Summit and asked student participants to identify behavior expectations they felt should be in place at every school event.

These minimum behavior expectations provide a foundation upon which member schools, conferences, administrative regions and the League’s Board of Directors can build specific guidelines for activities under their control.

MSHSL [Bylaw 409](#), RESPONSIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATING TEAMS, STUDENTS AND SPECTATORS, speaks to this issue, directly, and Bylaw 409.2 specifically states that, “School officials shall be held responsible for the proper conduct of teams, team members, students and home spectators regardless of where the contest is being held.”

In all MSHSL activities, each participating school shall designate a person or persons from that school to serve as crowd control supervisors or chaperones. MSHSL tournament staff may require school administrators to contact the tournament manager prior to the start of the tournament game so that they can be immediately contacted to respond to behavioral issues regarding their team members, students and/or spectators at the tournament site. Each supervisor or chaperone should be immediately identifiable to the students and to the tournament site ushers and other security personnel. This will help to coordinate crowd control between school supervisors and tournament site personnel. 8/9/2005

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY STUDENT ATHLETES (5/31/23)

- [Behavior Expectations](http://www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations) (www.mshsl.org/behaviorexpectations)

MSHSL MINIMAL BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS FOR REGULAR AND POST-SEASON TOURNAMENT COMPETITIONS

- Respect the American flag and the National Anthem.
- Spectators must wear clothing that covers the entire torso. Those who do not comply or who wear clothing that is vulgar, obscene or that in some other way inappropriate, as determined by school/tournament personnel, will be removed from the arena/stadium if they do not cooperate with this behavior expectation.
- The use of appropriate language is expected at all times. Profanity, negative chants, booing, trash talk, name calling, personal attacks or other acts of disrespect are unacceptable and must be immediately addressed by school and/or tournament administrators.
- Respect the game/contest. Under no condition shall anyone other than the members of the official squad enter the playing surface. No one may interfere with the contest in any way.

- Hand-held signs, which do not obstruct the view of others, will be permitted provided they are in good taste. Signs, message boards, “white” boards or other similar items contest/tournament officials deem to be in poor taste will be removed.
- Artificial noise makers (i.e. megaphones, cowbells, sirens, whistles, thunder sticks, and other similar items) are not allowed.
- Laser lights are strictly prohibited.

THANK YOU for supporting your student athletes and fine arts participants and for providing a positive environment in which educational activities are conducted.

Hockey Information – Regular Season

See the MSHSL Official Handbook [Bylaw 511](#) for information regarding:

- Contests
- Equipment Issued
- Last Date to Join a Team
- Practice Sessions Before First Contest
- Season Begins

RULE MODIFICATIONS

Length of Periods: All **varsity** teams—boys and girls—shall play three (3) **17-minute** periods. By mutual agreement of the schools involved the JV games could be played with longer periods from 15-minutes to 17-minutes. All games at all levels must have three periods and each period must be 15-17 minutes in length.

Game Misconduct Penalty: A game misconduct penalty is an ejection under League policies. The player or coach will be removed from that game for its duration and is ejected for the next game (s) according to the MSHSL bylaw 206 for Student/Coach Ejection from a contest.

There is an exception when a game misconduct penalty is assessed under Rule 4-5-2 for a player incurring five penalties in the same game. This is NOT an ejection under League policies and the player is only required to sit out the remaining portion of that game.

Game Disqualification: A game misconduct/game disqualification penalty shall be an ejection under League policies. The MSHSL ejection policy is not applied twice in the event a player receives a game misconduct and game disqualification in the same game.

DAILY PARTICIPATION LIMITS (Interpretation – Exception 2)

Refer to [Bylaw 502](#): When a penalty occurs at the end of a period and the penalty time will carry over to the next period, we allow a student to be replaced in the penalty box for the next period to **prevent** the use of an ineligible student if the next period would be the 5th period. However, we do not allow the replacement of the student in the next period to **preserve** his or her future eligibility. If the next period is not the 5th period for the student, the student must serve the penalty and count that period toward the maximum allowable periods for the day. If the coach wishes to ensure that a student has the desired further periods of participation available, it is the coach's responsibility to not have the student on the ice towards the end of a period when any penalty time assessed would carry over to the next period in which the coach had intended that the student not participate.

OVERTIME PROCEDURES

Teams will switch ends before the start of each overtime period.

In case of a tie at the end of regular play, follow the procedures outlined below:

1. Teams must remain in the bench area

2. 3-minute rest period
3. Teams switch ends prior to the start of the overtime period
4. One 8-minute sudden death overtime period will be played

OVERTIME PERIODS IN SCHOOL-SPONSORED TOURNAMENT PLAY DURING THE REGULAR SEASON

This procedure shall be used for regular season tournament games where a winner must be declared to advance in the tournament bracket.

In case of a tie at the end of regular play during school sponsored tournament play follow the procedures outlined below.

1. Teams must remain in the bench area
2. 3-minute rest period
3. Teams switch ends
4. One 8-minute sudden death overtime period will be played
5. If still tied after the 8-minute overtime period, the tournament manager will conduct a shootout to determine the winner
6. In all cases where a shootout is used to determine a winner the game will be officially recorded as a tie
7. The score at the end of the 8-minute overtime period will be the official score for the contest

USE OF INELIGIBLE PLAYER FOLLOWING A GAME DISQUALIFICATION

The score book shall indicate that a player was ejected in the previous game.

Penalty for the use of an ineligible player shall be enforced and result in an automatic forfeiture of game. A complete report of the violation must be submitted to the League Office. The Board will determine any additional penalty which might include:

- A. Censure of the coach.
- B. School placed on probation.
- C. If premeditated, the school could be suspended from League tournament play in that activity.

SCOUTING

Audio taping may be used as a scouting tool, as well as written observations of the team that is being scouted. The use of video equipment or any type of camera is prohibited by a coach, team member, or any agent thereof.

WARM-UPS

There will be a one-minute warm-up before the start of the second and third period.

EQUIPMENT ISSUED

Only goalie equipment may be issued for summer use. All other hockey equipment may be issued on or after the Friday or Saturday preceding the authorized date for opening of practice.

Hockey Information – Post Season

REGION/SECTION SEEDING CONSISTENCY - [Seeding Consistency](http://www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding) (www.mshsl.org/sectionseeding)

STATE TOURNAMENT SCHOOL QUALIFYING INFORMATION

Information for qualifying schools will be located on MSHSL Dashboards under Tournament Info.

All rule modifications identified above, unless otherwise noted, shall be implemented during all levels of the section and state tournaments.

1. Length of periods
2. Game misconduct penalty

Updated: August 24, 2023

3. Game disqualification
4. Overtime periods
5. Shortened games
6. Rules modifications

OFFICIAL SQUAD SIZE

20 Players (must include a spare goalie)

2 Student Assistants

3 Coaches

If you only have one goaltender dressed, you must provide the name of the individual on the official game sheet who will replace the goaltender should the goaltender be unable to continue to play as a result of injury or illness incurred during the game.

Only the official squad above can be on the bench during the tournament series.

ELIGIBILITY DURING MSHSL TOURNAMENTS – SUBSECTION, SECTION AND STATE

Refer to [Bylaw 206.4.B.1.d](#): A student must be fully eligible under all local school district policies, MSHSL Bylaws and Rules & Policies to be in uniform, occupy the bench or playing area, participate and receive individual/team awards, including all-tournament honors, in the awards ceremony.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN LEAGUE-SPONSORED TOURNAMENTS

Refer to [Bylaw 405](#): A member school must schedule and play a minimum of three (3) interscholastic varsity games, meets or matches to qualify for League sponsored tournament participation in that sport.

POLICY FOR DISQUALIFIED PLAYERS

A player charged with a game disqualification penalty or game misconduct during the State Tournament will be disqualified as prescribed in Bylaw 206.

STATE TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING

The championship team of each section will advance to the state tournament. The section tournament managers will inform member schools of policies, procedures, dates, sites and times of section games.

OFFICIALS

- A. Officials: All sectional play-off games must use a minimum of a 3-person officiating system. (two referees; one linesman)

OVERTIME PERIODS FOR POST SEASON TOURNAMANT PLAY

This procedure will be used for all Section and State Tournament games.

In case of a tie at the end of regular play, follow the procedures outlined below:

1. Teams must remain in the bench area
2. 3-minute rest period
3. Teams switch ends prior to the start of each overtime period
4. 8-minute sudden death overtime period will be played
5. Make ice with a 15-minute rest period
6. 17-minute overtime period will be played
7. If a tie remains, repeat procedures as indicated in 1-6 above

SHORTENED GAMES

All high school games, including the section and the state tournament, will be shortened after two periods or during the third period by using running time when a team leads an opposing team by six or more goals.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PUCK – Bauer

AWARDS

Section

- Medals: To all members of the official squad of the first and second place teams.
- Trophies: To the first and second place team.

State

- Certificates of Participation: To each student member of the official squad.
- Certificates of Recognition: To the head coach and the two assistant coaches of each team.
- Medals: To each member of the official squad including the coaches of the first - third place teams.
- Trophies: To the first - fourth place teams.

SPONSORED AWARD

Herb Brooks Award - The Herb Brooks award is given to the most qualified hockey player in the state tournament who strongly represents the values, characteristics, and traits that defined Herb Brooks. This prestigious award will commemorate the unending influence Herb Brooks had on the sport of hockey in Minnesota and throughout the world.

PROJECTED PAIRINGS

A seeding meeting to determine state tournament pairings will be held on the Saturday preceding the state tournament. The participating coaches will seed teams 1-5 in their respective tournament, and the remaining teams, will be determined by a blind draw.

TICKET INFORMATION

A. Advance ticket Sales:

Information regarding advance season ticket sales will be made available by the League office prior to each tournament.

B. School Allocation - Class AA Boys Hockey

1. All ticket arrangements for school allocations will be made with the MSHSL Ticket Manager. The MSHSL can arrange locations in the Xcel Energy Center for school sales for Friday and Saturday games.
2. For sessions 1, 2, 4 and 6 each school participating in the session will receive approximately 1400 tickets. There will be no allotment of tickets to the non-competing schools.

INJURY OF A PLAYER

The League provides a physician and trainer for immediate, medical attention. The Assistant Coach or Faculty Representative is to report to the training room promptly when an injury results in a player having to leave the playing area.